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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/754,907	01/04/2001	Sandeep Jain	53964-0016	3954
7590	05/06/2004		EXAMINER	
HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP 1600 Willow Street San Jose, CA 95125-5106			WU, YICUN	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2175	9

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/754,907	JAIN ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Yicun Wu	2175	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

DIANE D. MIZRAHI
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 210.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .
6) Other: See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: form 1449 missing, please resubmit.

III. DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-13 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated over Mitty et al., (U. S. Patent No. 6,199,052).

As to claims 1, 6, 11 and 13, Mitty et al. discloses a method for authenticating messages communicated between partners that belong to a plurality of partners, the method comprising the steps of:

maintaining at a trusted intermediary a signature decryption key for each partner of the plurality of partners that is authorized to use the trusted intermediary to send messages (Fig. 1);

receiving at the trusted intermediary messages originated by partners of the plurality of partners that are intended for other partners of the plurality of partners (Fig. 1); for each message thus received, the trusted intermediary performing the steps of using the signature decryption key associated with the partner that sent the message to determine whether the message was actually sent by that partner (Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67); and if the message was actually sent by that partner, then sending the message to the partner for which the message is intended along with a digital signature of the trusted intermediary to indicate that the trusted intermediary has verified that the message was actually sent by the partner that sent the message (Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67).

As to claims 2, 7 and 12, Mitty et al. discloses a method wherein the signature decryption key for each partner of the plurality of partners is a public signature decryption key associated with a private signature creation key (col. 3, lines

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50-67 and Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67) .

As to claims 3 and 8, Mitty et al. discloses a method wherein the signature decryption key for each partner of the plurality of partner is used to decrypt a digital signature associated with a message that is sent along with the digital signature (Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67) and (col. 5, lines 1-67) .

As to claims 4 and 9, Mitty et al. discloses a method wherein the digital signature of the trusted intermediary is associated with a message (i.e. package) that is sent along the digital signature of the trusted intermediary (Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67) and (col.5, line 1 - col. 6 lines 67) .

As to claims 5 and 10, Mitty et al. discloses a method wherein the digital signature of the trusted intermediary is encrypted by a private signature creation key associated with a public signature decryption key (Fig. 1,3 and col. 2, lines 30-54 and col. 6, lines 20-67) and (col. 3, lines 50-67) .

Prior Art Made of Record

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Micali (U.S. Patent No. 6,026,164);

Lewis (U.S. Patent No. 6,240,187);

Vaeth et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,308,277);

Harris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,681,328).

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yicun Wu whose telephone number is 703-305-4889. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, Monday -Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dov Popovici can be reached on 703-305-3830. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7240 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yicun Wu
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Technology Center 2100

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April 25, 2004